



Young People in Recovery

**Building strategic partnerships with the larger recovery community**

# What is YPR?

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
  - National volunteer network of chapter leaders and members
  - Providing peer-to-peer services for young people in, or seeking, recovery
  - Improving access to:
    - treatment
    - educational resources
    - employment opportunities
    - secure, stable housing that sustains young people in recovery
    - fun social events with an alternative peer group that supports recovery
  - Embracing all pathways to recovery (12-steps, SMART recovery, harm reduction, faith-based)
  - Welcoming parents, friends, and co-workers of young people in recovery in all service/leadership positions

# History of YPR

- 2010:
  - Created as a strategic initiative by SAMHSA
- 2011:
  - Young People in Recovery Conference held in Cleveland
- 2012:
  - Young People in Recovery Steering Committee formed
- 2013:
  - YPR incorporates in Denver, CO with national staff, Board of Directors
- 2014:
  - 21 Chapter/19 states: Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pacific NW, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington DC, Wisconsin
  - First National Leadership Conference held in Denver

# Organizational Overview

- Structure
  - 501c3 non-profit organization
  - Board of Directors
  - National Staff: CEO/President, Policy Director, Development Director, Chapter Coordinators
  - All other positions volunteer based: Chapter Leads – Treatment, Housing, Education, Employment, Policy, etc.
- Chapter development
  - Online application, must be a leadership team vs. one person
  - 90 day on-boarding process
  - 30 state coverage by end of FY 2015

# Strategic Pillars for Success and Impact

- 4 main areas of focus, adopted from World Health Organization
  - Access to treatment
  - Equitable employment
  - Safe and affordable housing that sustains recovery
  - Continuing/completing one's education (GED, higher education, vocational schools, professional degrees)
- Access to Treatment
  - Referral source for individuals and families
  - National, state, and local advocates for policy reform

# Strategic Pillars for Success and Impact

How do YPR chapters work? What do they do?

- All YPR services are 100% free to the general public
- Workshops offered in:
  - *Employment*– how to write a resume/cover letter; finding recovery-friendly employers, how to explain “gaps” in experience or incarceration due to addiction
  - *Housing*– how to find safe, affordable housing that supports long-term recovery
  - *Education*-- how to continue/complete one’s education, Collegiate Recovery Programs, filling out forms for applications/financial aid, explaining “gaps”

# Strategic Pillars for Success and Impact

- **Employment**
  - YPR works within communities to create and identify networks of recovery-friendly employers
  - YPR provides employment “life-skills” trainings
    - Resume writing, interview skills, job skills training (basic), computer skills, job search tactics, etc.
- **Housing**
  - YPR works within communities to identify community-based recovery residences for young people with various levels of services and support
  - Connecting the community with appropriate housing for this age group – where to look and what are your rights
  - Policies developed with NARR – National Association of Recovery Residences

# Strategic Pillars for Success and Impact

- Education

- Strategic partnership with Transforming Youth Recovery and Association of Recovery Schools
- Education “life skills” training
  - Applying for financial aid, admissions best practices and responses, basic study skills, “what type of education is right for me?”
    - GED or high school diplomas, vocational education, community college and 4-year universities, graduate degrees, certificate programs, etc.
- YPR chapters serve as advocacy arms of collegiate recovery programs in multiple states
- Mentoring pilot programs with recovery high schools in Texas and Pennsylvania



# Strategic Pillars for Success and Impact

- **Recovery Messaging Training**
  - Developed with Faces and Voices of Recovery
  - Evidence-based
  - Trains individuals in recovery: “person-first” language and how to effectively advocate for social/legislative reform with recovery stories
  - Adapted versions used for higher education, secondary education, and professional settings
- **How Youth Recovery Works**
  - Educating the public and treatment providers about the need for community-based support for this age group
  - Advocating for youth-specific programs and services

# YPR in the Community

- YPR chapter leaders & members:
  - Speaking engagements/public awareness events
  - Continuing education workshops for treatment professionals
  - Town hall meetings, school assemblies, community forums
  - Awareness/education events on prevention, addiction and recovery
  - Workplace events for parents of middle school, high school and college-age students
  - Collaboration with criminal justice organizations, school systems/school boards, community task force on drug addiction/prevention
  - Source of accurate, evidence-based information on addiction and recovery for the news media
  - Recovery celebration events/Recovery Month
  - Local, state and national conferences

# How Can You Support YPR?

- Create a new chapter:
  - Fill out the online application at [www.youngpeopleinrecovery.org](http://www.youngpeopleinrecovery.org)
- Join a current chapter:
  - Find a chapter near you on our website
- Like us on Facebook/follow us on Twitter:
  - [www.facebook.com/youngpeopleinrecovery](https://www.facebook.com/youngpeopleinrecovery)
  - @yngpplerecover
- Make a gift to YPR:
  - Text RECOVERY to 41444
  - Visit our website & click on the DONATE button

# Questions & Answers

